

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064826

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ORIGIN ARA-06

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TAGS: OREP (MOFFETT, TOBY/MILLER, GEORGE/ARKIN,

SUBJECT: CODEL MOFFETT

1. FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRESS CONFERENCE 11 AM, MARCH 17, BY CODEL. SEPARATE CABLE FOLLOWS ON EXCHANGE WITH PRESS.

2. QUOTE: "HARKIN: 'HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE A DISASTER'" (WASHINGTON, D.C.)--U.S. CONGRESSMAN TOM HARKIN HAS DESCRIBED THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE AS "NOTHING SHORT OF A DISASTER," AFTER RETURNING FROM A SIX DAY INVESTIGATION IN THAT COUNTRY INTO CHARGES THAT THE RULING MILITARY JUNTA WAS COMMITTING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID HE AND U.S. REPS. TOBY MOFFETT (D-CONN.) AND GEORGE MILLER (D-CALIF.), WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THE FACT FINDING TRIP, WOULD PRESS FOR A COMPLETE CUT OFF OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE.

QUOTE: HARKIN SAID THEY FOUND "CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE SYSTEMATIC DENIAL OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EFFORTS BY THE MILITARY TO STOMP OUT ALL OPPOSITION." THEY HEARD "COUNTLESS HORROR STORIES" OF CHILEAN CITIZENS BEING KIDNAPPED,
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PAGE 02 STATE 064826

IMPRISONED WITHOUT CHARGES OR TRIALS, TORTURED, AND EVEN

MURDERED, HE SAID. THE MAIN TARGET OF THE OPPRESSION APPEARED TO BE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO REPRESENT THE MODERATE CENTER OF CHILEAN POLITICS, HARKIN ADDED.

QUOTE: "WHATEVER GOOD THE STATE DEPARTMENT THINKS MAY HAVE COME FROM THE CHILEAN JUNTA PALES IN INSIGNIFICANCE NEXT TO THE GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN CHILE," HARKIN SAID.

QUOTE: IN CHILE THE THREE HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS, RELIGIOUS, LABOR, BUSINESS, LEGAL, EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL AND FARM LEADERS, POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND AVERAGE CHILEAN CITIZENS. HARKIN TERMED THE INVESTIGATION THE "MOST EXTENSIVE STUDY INTO THE CHILEAN SITUATION BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE IN 1973, AND THE MOST COMPLETE STUDY EVER CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE REAL EFFECT OF OUR FOREIGN AID DOLLARS."

QUOTE: UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON THE THREE CONGRESSMEN TOOK THEIR FINDINGS TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND URGED THAT ALL MILITARY AID TO CHILE BE STOPPED UNTIL THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IMPROVES. "THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR US TO CONTINUE TO AID IN THE SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE CHILEAN JUNTA BY PROVIDING THEM WITH THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THEIR COERCION," HARKIN SAID.

QUOTE: SPECIFICALLY, THE THREE RECOMMENDED HOUSE CONFEREES ACCEPT A SENATE AMENDMENT, OFFERED BY SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY, TO THE MILITARY FOREIGN AID BILL. THE AMENDMENT WOULD STOP ALL MILITARY AID TO CHILE, INCLUDING THAT ALREADY "IN THE PIPELINE." THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE, BUT NOT THE HOUSE. THE BILL IS NOW IN A HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WHERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO VERSIONS ARE TO BE IRONED OUT.

QUOTE: HARKIN, WHO AUTHORED THE HARKIN HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT, WHICH SEEKS TO BLOCK U.S. TAX FUNDS FROM AIDING GOVERNMENTS WHICH CONSISTENTLY VIOLATE THEIR CITIZENS' BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, NOTED SINCE SEIZING POWER IN A COUP
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PAGE 03 STATE 064826

TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO THE CHILEAN JUNTA HAS RECEIVED \$1.2 BILLION IN AID AND LOANS FROM U.S. TAX FUNDS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED IN PART BY U.S. TAX FUNDS. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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